



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **TOWN OF GLEN ST. MARY BEGINS CONSTRUCTION ON WATER SYSTEMS WITH HELP FROM USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

GLEN ST. MARY, FL, August 6, 2004 — Residents and businesses in the northeast Florida town of Glen St. Mary are a step closer to the day when fresh clean water will flow from their spigots. With assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, today's groundbreaking marks construction of a project that will bring much needed water system improvements to the area.

Currently the community has no existing centralized potable water system or sanitary sewer system. The deteriorating downtown/central business district has been attributed to this lack of water and waste disposal facilities. Additionally, due to the lack of potable water and a waste disposal system, the Health Department/Department of Environmental Protection is unable to approve permits allowing existing businesses to expand or new businesses to open. Several businesses have recently closed and others have been threatening to close their doors as well.

With their smaller populations, rural areas often have difficulty financing and maintaining water system facilities. Facing an expectation of continuing loss of businesses and jobs in the community, the Town of Glen St. Mary turned to USDA Rural Development for assistance. In April 2002, with initial Rural Development funding of \$1,028,000 (\$670,000 loan and \$358,000 grant), \$500,000 in State of Florida CDBG funding and \$245,250 in funding provided by the town, Glen St. Mary began the process that will result in the new water and wastewater system. With today's Rural Development funding of \$745,671 (\$370,214 loan and \$375,457 grant), the town is positioned to begin construction on the project that will connect the town's business district to Macclenny's sewer system. The town is also installing a potable water treatment plant with waterlines running along U.S. Highway 90 to provide fresh clean water to the town's business district.

"Today marks a new day for the residents and businesses of Glen St. Mary," said Rural Development State Director Charles W. Clemons, Sr. "The Glen St. Mary water system is an example of using our resources wisely. By working together with local and congressional leaders and regulatory agencies, the new water system will meet the needs of the community while protecting our environment and strengthening the economic viability of the town."

USDA Rural Development is committed to the future of rural communities and is the lead Federal entity for rural development needs and administers financial and technical assistance through Rural Housing Programs, Rural Business-Cooperative Programs and Rural Utilities Programs. Further information on USDA Rural Development can be obtained by contacting any USDA Service Center or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/fl>

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